

5    **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10    Claim 10 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support  
member-bar is formed of an elongated bar having at least one passage through the elongated bar  
and positioned adjacent to one of the first and second ends of the elongated bar;  
the elastic retainer is further structured to pass through the passage; and  
at least one of the anchors is further structured to be unable to pass through the passage.

15    Claim 11 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support  
member-bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing  
edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises a slot through  
a thickness of the support member-bar and communicating with an edge thereof.

20    Claim 12 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support  
member-bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing  
edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises an aperture  
formed through a thickness of the support member-bar and positioned adjacent an edge thereof.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support  
member is formed of a material selected from the group of materials consisting of: plastic,  
Plexiglas, acrylic, wood, and metal.

25    Claim 14 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support  
member-bar is formed of a rectangular plate including the two spaced-apart edges.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the elastic  
retainer further comprises an elastic material having a slippery contact surface and having the  
anchoring means formed at first and second opposite ends thereof.

- 5 Claim 16 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein the first and second anchors further comprise an anchor selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop, a knot, a hook, a slip-on clip, and a crimp-on clip.

Claim 17 (original): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein elastic retainer further comprises a plurality of the anchoring means formed at one of the first and second opposite ends  
10 thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the ~~support member further comprises means for compacting the support member~~ bar is limited to the means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A book page holder device for holding open the pages of a book,  
15 the book page holder device comprising:

a substantially uniformly narrow flat and rigid elongated support member ~~bar~~ structured for supporting an open book thereon across to a spine of the open book with the spine and two opposite covers of the book being arranged adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar being formed with two opposing edges spaced apart across the a width of the support member  
20 bar, the support ~~member~~ bar further comprising means for compacting the support ~~member~~ bar selected from the group of compacting means consisting of means for telescoping a first portion of the support ~~member~~ bar relative to a second portion thereof, and means for folding the first portion of the support ~~member~~ bar relative to the second portion thereof; and

~~an elongated a single resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding pages of~~  
25 an open book supported on the support bar with the pages retained substantially against both respective opposite covers of the open book, the single elastic retainer being structured to extend between the two spaced-apart edges of the elongated support bar and having first and second anchors provided adjacent to respective first and second opposite ends thereof, the anchors being structured to secure the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer adjacent to the  
30 respective spaced-apart edges of the support member bar.

5 Claim 20 (currently amended): A book page holder device, comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon crosswise to a spine of the open book with two opposite covers of the spine of the book laying adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar having substantially planar first and second operating surfaces extending substantially uniformly between first and second spaced-apart ends thereof; and

10 an elongated resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding the pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages substantially compressed against respective opposite covers of the open book, the elastic retainer having first and second ends anchored to the first and second ends of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the first and  
15 second ends thereof with at least one of the first and second ends of the elastic retainer being releasably so anchored, the elastic retainer being in tension when so anchored to the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 21 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein the elastic retainer further comprises anchors on each of its first and second ends.

20 Claim 22 (previously presented): The device of claim 21 wherein the support bar further comprises a passage formed as a slot communicating with a first edge portion of the support bar adjacent the first end thereof; and one of the anchors is selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop formed in the elastic retainer, a knot formed in the elastic retainer, a hook secured to the elastic retainer, a slip-on clip secured to the elastic retainer, and a crimp-on clip  
25 secured to the elastic retainer.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The device of claim 22 wherein a second one of the passages is formed as an aperture passing through the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The device of claim 23 wherein the support bar further comprises a second passage formed as a second slot communicating with a second edge portion  
30 of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the second end thereof.

- 5 Claim 25 (new): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the means for compacting the support bar is limited to the means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof.